






# **Rebuild Iowa Office**

## **2010 Iowa Legislative Actions Supporting Disaster Recovery and Preparedness**

**Rebuild Iowa  
Coordinating Council Meeting  
4-27-10**

**Susan Judkins, Intergovernmental Affairs Director**

## RIO Filed Three Legislative Proposals for 2010

- Establish Permanent Case Management System
  - HF2422 signed 3/22/10
  - Business task force to generate recommendations by 11/15/10
- Smart Planning
  - SF2389 signed 4/26/10
  - Task force to generate recommendations by 11/15/10
- Watershed/Floodplain Management
  - Water Resources Coordinating Council recommendations generated from HF756 (2009 bill)
  - Five recommendations addressed in 2010 bills
  - More work to be done



## Safe room best practices (HF705)

“The State Building Code Commissioner, in cooperation with the Department of Public Defense, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Rebuild Iowa Office, shall review and assess best practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings, safe rooms, and storm shelters to reduce the risk of personal injury from tornadoes and other severe weather”

- DPS, RIO, DNR, HSEMD, DAS, DHS cooperated in recommending that state rules align with FEMA standards
- The rule establishing safe room standards takes effect July, 2010, but only applies to construction that occurs on or after January 1, 2011.

## Flood insurance incentives (HF759)

“The commissioner of insurance, in collaboration with the rebuild Iowa office and the homeland security and emergency management division of the Iowa department of public defense, shall develop recommendations on policies and incentives to expand the availability and procurement of flood insurance in the state.”

- IID, RIO, HSEMD, DNR
- HSB512 and SSB3089: Recommendations regarding real estate disclosure forms and insurance applications were considered but did not pass

## Floodplain Management Recommendations (HF756)

“The council shall develop recommendations for policies and funding promoting a watershed management approach to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on this state's residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality.”

- Progress made in HF2459 and HF2531
- To be addressed under RIAC Goal #9



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #1 - Iowa will provide support to individuals and families seeking assistance in rebuilding**

- HF2422 helps make individual case management **system** implemented after 2008 disasters permanently available for future disaster victims. (Signed 3/22/10)
  - Julie Struck and Jenna Anderson from RIO will coordinate planning process with input from DHS, HSEMD, case management entities, emergency management officials, COGs.
  - DHS assumes responsibility upon RIO sunset 7/1/11.



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## Recommendation #1 - Iowa will provide support to individuals and families seeking assistance in rebuilding

- HF2294 utilizes local long-term recovery committees established via case management system to administer a **voucher program** to distribute individual assistance funds in smaller disasters. (Signed 3/22/10)
- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) waives penalty and interest for any Iowa taxpayer required to amend their 2008 state tax return due to claiming disaster benefits that were only allowed on federal tax returns. (Not Yet Signed)
- HF2504/SF2225 would have doubled criminal fines in disaster areas; but did not pass.



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed

## **Recommendation #2 - State and local governments should prioritize availability and affordability of adequate, affordable housing**

- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains a provision authorizing Iowa Finance Authority to utilize Housing Trust Fund monies to support the Iowa Mortgage Help Initiative. (Not Yet Signed)
  - RIO and other agencies are working to identify disaster funds that may supplement this effort for individuals needing foreclosure assistance in disaster areas





# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #3 - The state should provide incentives for Iowa's small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters.**

- HF2422 establishes a Business Disaster Recovery Task Force to outline recommendations for business disaster recovery. (Signed 3/22/10)
  - Recommendations due 11/15/10. Jacqui DiGiacinto, RIO Economic Recovery Specialist, will facilitate the task force.
- SF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$20K for the development of a business assistance internet site by IDED and \$5M for the development and funding of a small business loan program – Save our Small Businesses Fund. (Signed 4/26/10)



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #4 - The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction.**

- \$72.2 million in one-time disaster funding appropriated for infrastructure:
  - HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains \$4.5 million for Linn County's administrative building and \$2.1 million for the federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids. (Not Yet Signed)
  - HF2389 (RIIF Bill) contains IJOBS funding for projects in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Des Moines, Polk County, Mason City, Davenport, Waterloo, Iowa City, Belmond, Norwalk, Jesup, and West Union. Plus \$30 million for a Disaster Prevention Program (see RIAC Goal #8) and \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention (see RIAC Goal #9.) (Signed 4/26/10)



## RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

**Recommendation #5 - The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa.**

- HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) provides more flexibility on dates that a bond issue vote may be scheduled in disaster-impacted communities. (Not Yet Signed)
- SF2310 (Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund) outlines implementation of a proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution. (Signed 4/23/10)
- SF2294 would have created a future state disaster recovery fund once emergency funds were replenished, but did not pass.



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #6 - The state must invest in local emergency management agencies to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters.**

- Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010
  - HSB672/SSB3187 would have established an Emergency Management Trust Fund, funded by a surcharge on property and casualty insurance policies purchased by Iowa property owners (\$1 on renters' policies, \$2 for policies on single family homes, mobile homes and condos; and \$4 on commercial policies), but did not pass.
  - SSB3178 would have set a floor property tax rate for emergency services of 40.5 cents per \$1,000 property value (no floor currently in law), but did not pass



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #7 - The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.**

- SF 2380 (Tax Credit Changes) retains the Historic Preservation Tax Credit program but reduces its cap from \$50M to \$45M beginning 7/1/12. (Signed 4/15/10)
- SF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$12M for Community Attraction and Tourism grant funding and \$4M for River Enhancement Community Attraction grant funding, plus funding for Main Street projects (Signed 4/26/10)



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

**Recommendation #8 - The state will lead in developing guidance for and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.**

- SF 2389 (RIIF Bill) establishes Smart Planning.(Signed 4/26/10)

- At signing ceremony, Governor Culver said:

SF 2389 introduces “smart planning” to Iowa – helping communities develop a blueprint for the future. This will help to attract businesses, preserve community resources, and reduce future disaster risks. We were one of only three states without “smart planning,” and with my signature, we will be.



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

**Recommendation #8 - The state will lead in developing guidance for and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.**

- SF 2389 (RIIF Bill) establishes Smart Planning.(Signed 4/26/10)
  - Ten Smart Planning Principles (see next slide)
  - Comprehensive Planning Guidance for cities and counties
  - Smart Planning Task Force to develop statewide planning goals, evaluate and develop incentives for comprehensive planning, develop a model for regional comprehensive planning, and develop recommendations for state comprehensive planning programs
  - \$30 Million Disaster Prevention Program created with IJOBS funding, eligibility contingent on following Smart Planning.



# Smart Planning Principles

1. **Collaboration.** Stakeholder, Community & Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions.
2. **Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency.** Predictable, Fair & Cost Effective Development Decisions.
3. **Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy.** Clean Energy Production & Increased Energy Efficiency.
4. **Occupational Diversity.** Increase Diversity of Job & Business Opportunities.
5. **Revitalization.** Concentrate Development & Mix Land Uses
6. **Housing Diversity.** Expand Housing Opportunities & Choices.
7. **Community Character.** Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place.
8. **Natural Resources and Agricultural Protection.** Protect, Preserve & Wisely Utilize Natural Resources & Working Lands .
9. **Sustainable Design.** Green Building & Infrastructure Design.
10. **Transportation Diversity.** Variety of Transportation Choices.





# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #9 - The state will move state policy forward and lead regional and local discussion on floodplain and watershed management.**

- Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) generated 16 policy recommendations
- SF2316 addressed 12 policy recommendations and passed the Senate but did not pass the House Committee
- Just 5 policy recommendations PASSED in other bills:
  - HF2531 (Standing Appropriations Bill) requires the WRCC and others *to extent feasible* to 1) work on establishing an Iowa chapter of State Floodplain Managers Association, and 2) education and 3) marketing for flood risks and floodplain awareness. (Not Yet Signed)
  - HF2459 (Watershed Bill) 4) authorizes that funding be sought for pilot watershed projects involving IDALS, DNR and the Iowa Flood Center, and 5) outlines potential watershed governance via Watershed Management Authorities (Signed 4/7/10)



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #9 - The state will move state policy forward and lead regional and local discussion on floodplain and watershed management.**

- Policy recommendations included in SF2316 but NOT PASSED in 2010:
  - Regulate the .2% (500-year) floodplain (or a model ordinance)
  - Establish stormwater standards (or best practices)
  - Enhance safety for critical facilities (require continued operation or safe cessation during 500-year flood event)
  - Hydrological tiling study
  - WRCC to make watershed management recommendations by 11/15/10
  - Integrate multipurpose wetlands into watersheds
  - Update conservation practice criteria to reflect changing precipitation



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #9 - The state will move state policy forward and lead regional and local discussion on floodplain and watershed management.**

- Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) made 9 funding recommendations
  - Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010
  - HF2389 (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention. (Signed 4/26/10)



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #9 - The state will move state policy forward and lead regional and local discussion on floodplain and watershed management.**

- A floodplain management-related bill that passed was SF2371, which reduces royalty fees for removing sand and gravel from rivers in Linn and Black Hawk Counties on a pilot basis through 6/30/15. (Signed 4/23/10)
- SSB3170 and HSB608 explored the idea that state financial support should be withheld from certain development in the 500-year floodplain, but these bills did not pass.



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

**Recommendation #10 - The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology, implementing the mapping process as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical.**

- DNR continues to coordinate this effort through CDBG funding
- The Iowa Flood Center will continue to play a major role with a specific allocation of existing CDBG funds in SF2389 (RIIF Bill). (Signed 4/26/10)



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

## **Recommendation #11 - The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery.**

- SF2367 appropriates \$647,014 to support RIO during FY11 (Not Yet Signed)
  - 12 FTEs were maintained
  - Additional RIO funding is provided through federal sources
- HF2212 proposed government reorganization clauses, including that the Rebuild Iowa Office cease operating as of 7/1/10 with HSEMD assuming responsibilities. This bill did not pass.



# RIAC Recommendations Addressed in 2010

**Recommendation #12 - All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.**

- A big “thank you” to members of the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council for your important role in addressing this recommendation!



# Q & A

